

Glenda Wiles

From: Carol A. Hansen [basecamp@hughes.net]
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2007 11:02 AM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: quarry

2009 Old Ranch Rd.
 Hamilton, MT 59840

RECEIVED

Chuck Oliver, District Ranger
 Darby Ranger District
 P.O. Box 388
 Darby, MT 59828

JUN 18 2007

Ravalli County Commissioners

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*Attn: Commissioners
 This matter will
 be coming up for
 Commisss discussion
 @ a later date. g.m.w*

Attention Chuck Oliver:

I am writing to let you know that I strongly oppose the proposal to reopen the rock quarry in the Lost Horse Canyon drainage.

The Bitterroot National Forest has done an excellent job of developing this area as a recreational corridor. It is widely used and a popular destination for campers, hunters, snowmobiles, horseback riders, wildlife viewers, ATV's and dirt bikes, boat hauling, bicycle enthusiasts, hikers, fishermen, climbers and access to Como Lake "the back way". The current use of Lost Horse Road is incompatible with an industrial operation, in my opinion.

This area is currently experiencing the negative impact of traffic noise, road degradation (both the paved section of Lost Horse Rd. and the dirt/gravel section), speeding vehicles, wide loads on the narrow road with several blind corners and litter.

The posted speed limits of 45/miles per hour on the paved part of Lost Horse Road and 15/mph on the dirt portion are not enforced. Walking my dog on Lost Horse Road has become a hazardous venture. When I am mounted on my mule and crossing Lost Horse to access a trail, I have concerns about confronting a speeding vehicle. Signs and speed limits have been ineffective.

Lost Horse Road is a school bus route for the Darby School District. The buses pick up and drop off children twice a day. I consider sharing this road with rock/gravel trucks a potential danger to our children.

If the quarry is reopened, the rock/gravel trucks will be added to the existing traffic and related issues.

I would like the county and the Forest Service to do a cost analysis and an environmental impact study in making any decision regarding the reopening of the Lost Horse Quarry. Any road improvement, widening, dust abatement, gasoline, equipment and so forth would have to be factored in to make financial sense in terms of spending our tax dollars.

This project, I believe, will have a strong negative impact on our residential neighborhood, a popular recreational corridor and tourist attraction.

6/18/2007

I have lived in the Lost Horse Road area since 1983. I value the quiet beauty, abundant wildlife and recreational opportunities of Lost Horse Canyon. Please do not reopen a rock quarry on Lost Horse Road.

Sincerely,

Carol Ann Hansen (Mrs. J.G.)

Glenda Wiles

From: Carol A. Hansen [basecamp@hughes.net]
Sent: Monday, June 18, 2007 1:07 PM
To: Glenda Wiles
Subject: LH rock quarry proposal

2009 Old Ranch Road
Hamilton, MT 59840

Chuck Oliver, District Ranger
Darby Ranger District
P.O. Box 388
Darby, MT 59828

Attention Mr. Oliver:

I am writing this letter in follow-up to our phone conversation of last week regarding the possible reopening of the Lost Horse Rock Quarry.

Thank you for getting back to me.

I would like to go on record as adamantly opposing the reopening of the Lost Horse Rock Quarry regardless of any mitigating adjustments in the proposed County/Forest Service agreement.

The area of Lost Horse Canyon in question is highly used by all types of outdoor recreationists on a year-round basis including hikers, climbers, bikers, runners, fishermen, horse people, and ATV's in summer as well as cross-country skiers, snowshoers and snowmobilers in winter.

These recreational opportunities have been made available by the Forest Service's investment in and improvement of sites along Lost Horse Creek and Lost Horse Road.

An industrial site adjacent to this area seems highly inconsistent with current use.

Other issues, of course, are dust, noise, road safety, road maintenance and wildlife impacts.

Please consider other sources of road material for the County which do not carry such extensive negative impacts with them.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

James G. Hansen, MD

6/18/2007